



September 29, 2017

Ms. Carol Letson  
Greening Greenfield  
29 Allen Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301

Dear Ms. Letson;

Thank you for your recent correspondence and email concerning your planned meeting in Greenfield on October 16, 2017.

I do appreciate your recognition of our efforts to date in addressing and acting on the matter of natural gas leaks in Greenfield, and I am equally appreciative of your interest in this matter. Please know that we share your interest in, and goal to, eliminate all system leaks at the earliest possible date in Greenfield, as well as in the other 19 communities that we serve.

With regard to the meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>, a number of facets of this issue are currently in play on a number of fronts, which may make this meeting premature. Let me share with you some of the items to which I am referring:

- 1) Summer Work – We are currently recapping our summer work with regard to system replacements and repairs intended to reduce natural gas leaks. As such, the most current information on the number of system leaks repaired in Greenfield will not be available in advance of the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- 2) Akley Survey Data – Our Engineering staff is still working to interpret and qualify the data provided by William Akley to determine if it is credible and accurate.
- 3) Updated Berkshire Survey of Greenfield – Berkshire Gas is conducting its own survey of the entire natural gas distribution system in Greenfield, as we do on a biennial basis.
- 4) Regulatory Changes - There are substantive and significant discussions going on between the industry and regulators on the topic of leak repair and elimination statewide. We are hopeful that this effort will yield revised regulations early in Q1 of next year.
- 5) Annual DPW Coordination Meeting – Our Engineering staff will be holding their annual coordinating meeting with the Greenfield DPW during the fourth quarter of this year. The goal of that meeting will be to coordinate our repair and replacement work with the town's planned road work and develop a three-year plan for conducting these efforts in a complementary manner. As part of this effort, we focus our most immediate work on eliminating the most significant leaks in our system.

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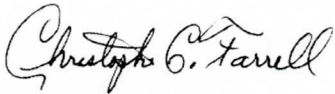
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As you can see there is a great deal of work going on to identify and eliminate natural gas leaks both in Greenfield and across the state. Given that, we would suggest that a meeting with your organization at the end of the first quarter of 2018 might be more productive and informative. As well, I am hopeful that the updated and new information that will be available at that time might be more closely aligned with our mutual goal of expediting leak repair.

In the interim, we are more than happy to address questions that you, or the Tree Committee, may have, in writing, as we have in the past. Feel free to forward any such questions to my attention.

Again, I regret that we will be unable to attend the October meeting, but look forward to an opportunity to meet with your group early next year to provide you with updated and more timely information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher C. Farrell".

Christopher C. Farrell, Manager  
Corporate Communications and  
Government Relations